

ATTACHMENT AClean Replacement/New Claims (entire set of pending claims)

Following herewith is a clean copy of each rewritten claim.

A1 5. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

when a document is established to be authentic or otherwise, the signal is transmitted to the location at which the document is scanned to indicate whether or not the document is authentic or otherwise and/or one or more alternative locations.

6. (amended) An apparatus for authenticating a document by the method of claim 1, the apparatus including:

a terminal operable to scan one or more pre-existing identifying features or indicia of the document;

a database containing one or more stored identifying features indicative of whether or not the document is authentic or otherwise;

comparator means to compare the scanned features/indicia with the stored identifying features;

transmission means interconnecting the scanning means and the comparator means; and

indicator means operable to receive a signal from the comparator means to indicate whether or not the document is authentic or otherwise.

A2 12. Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein:

the scanning means is scanning head passed over the documents by hand.

A3 14. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein:

the database contains stored feature/indicia specific to each document, the stored features/indicia being stored on the database when the document enters circulation.

15. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein:

a plurality of selected areas or zones of the document are scanned for the scanned features/indicia for comparison with respective stored features/indicia for the areas or zones.

16. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein:

the scanned features/indicia are compared with the scanned features/indicia when previously scanned, enabling identification of damage or change to the document and thereby enabling removal of the document from circulation.

21. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein:

the document is scanned for one or more pre-existing features and/or indicia and the scanned data is compared with the master file in the data storage means, a master file being updated to record changes in the scanned features and/or indicia of the document.

22. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein:

the data storage means is a card means operable to receive the data, and a card reader associated with the receptacle, the document only being releasable from the receptacle when the card means is placed in, or read by, the card reader.

23. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein:

the receptacle is a cash drawer, cash register, money drop box, cash box, wallet or the like.

28. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein:

the document can only be released from the receptacle when the scanned data corresponds to data in the data storage means.